



Cornell University  
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School  
**DigitalCommons@ILR**

---

Federal Publications

Key Workplace Documents

---

June 1993

## Safer and Healthier American Workplaces Through Improving Knowledge

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/key\\_workplace](https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/key_workplace)

Thank you for downloading an article from DigitalCommons@ILR.

**Support this valuable resource today!**

---

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Key Workplace Documents at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Federal Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact [catherwood-dig@cornell.edu](mailto:catherwood-dig@cornell.edu).

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information on this website or need materials in an alternate format, contact [web-accessibility@cornell.edu](mailto:web-accessibility@cornell.edu) for assistance.

---

## Safer and Healthier American Workplaces Through Improving Knowledge

### Comments

#### Suggested Citation

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1993). *Safer and healthier American workplaces through improving knowledge* (Report presented to the Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations). Retrieved [insert date], from Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations site: [http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/key\\_workplace/469](http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/key_workplace/469)

HOT TOPICS

"Future Worker Management"

June 21, 1993

Property of  
MARTIN P. CATHERWOOD LIBRARY  
NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL  
INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR RELATIONS  
Cornell University

**SAFER AND HEALTHIER**

**AMERICAN WORKPLACES**

**THROUGH IMPROVING**

**KNOWLEDGE**

# **STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS OF OSH ACT OF 1970**

## **Section 24(a):**

**SCOPE:** THE SECRETARY...SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF COLLECTION, COMPILATION, AND ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STATISTICS.

SECRETARY OF LABOR DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATISTICS TO BLS, THE PRIMARY STATISTICAL AGENCY WITHIN DOL.

# **ANNUAL SURVEY OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES 1972 - 91**

**EACH YEAR THE SURVEY PROVIDES ESTIMATES ON  
WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES:**

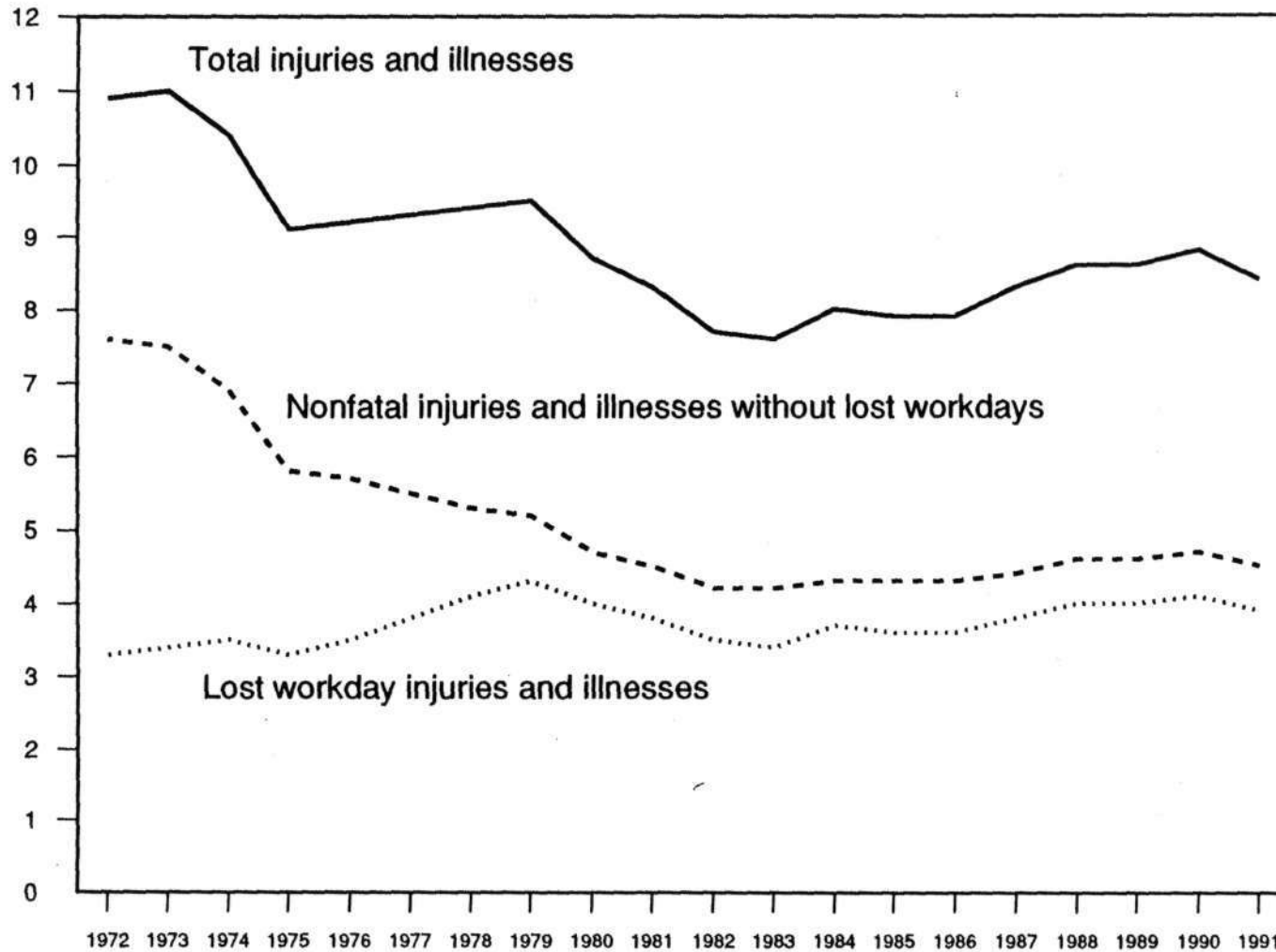
- \* INCIDENCE RATES (PER 100 FULL TIME WORKERS)
- \* NUMBER OF CASES
- \* NUMBER OF DAYS AWAY FROM WORK

**EACH YEAR THE SURVEY ALSO PROVIDES  
ESTIMATES OF WORKPLACE FATALITIES**

- \* INCIDENCE RATES (PER 100,000 FULL TIME  
WORKERS)
- \* NUMBER OF CASES

## Occupational Injury and Illness Incidence Rates, Private Industry, 1972-91

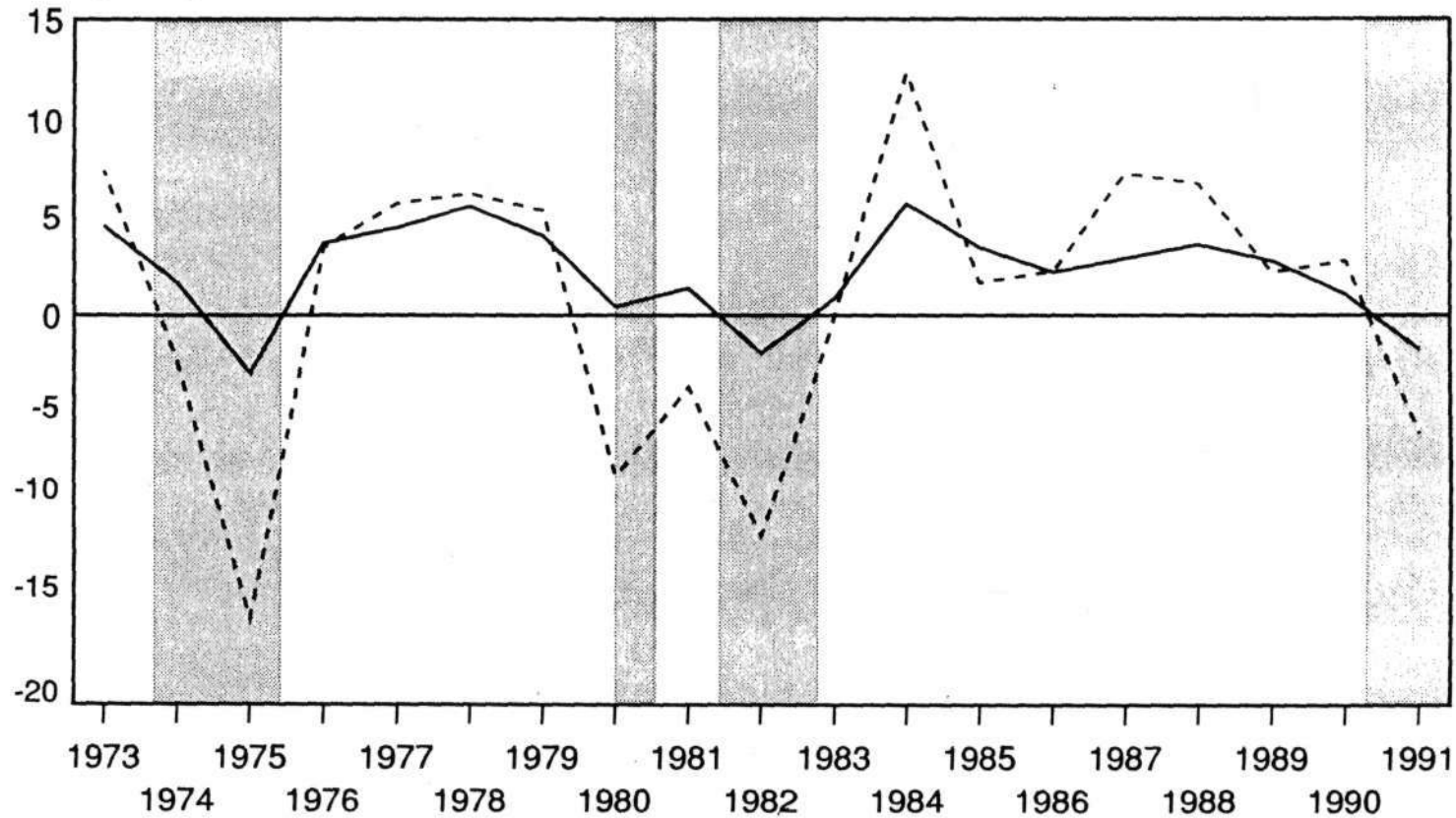
Incidence rates  
per 100 full-time  
workers



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses  
June 1993

# Year-to-Year Percentage Change in Employment and Total Injury and Illness Cases, Private Industry, 1973-91

Percentage change



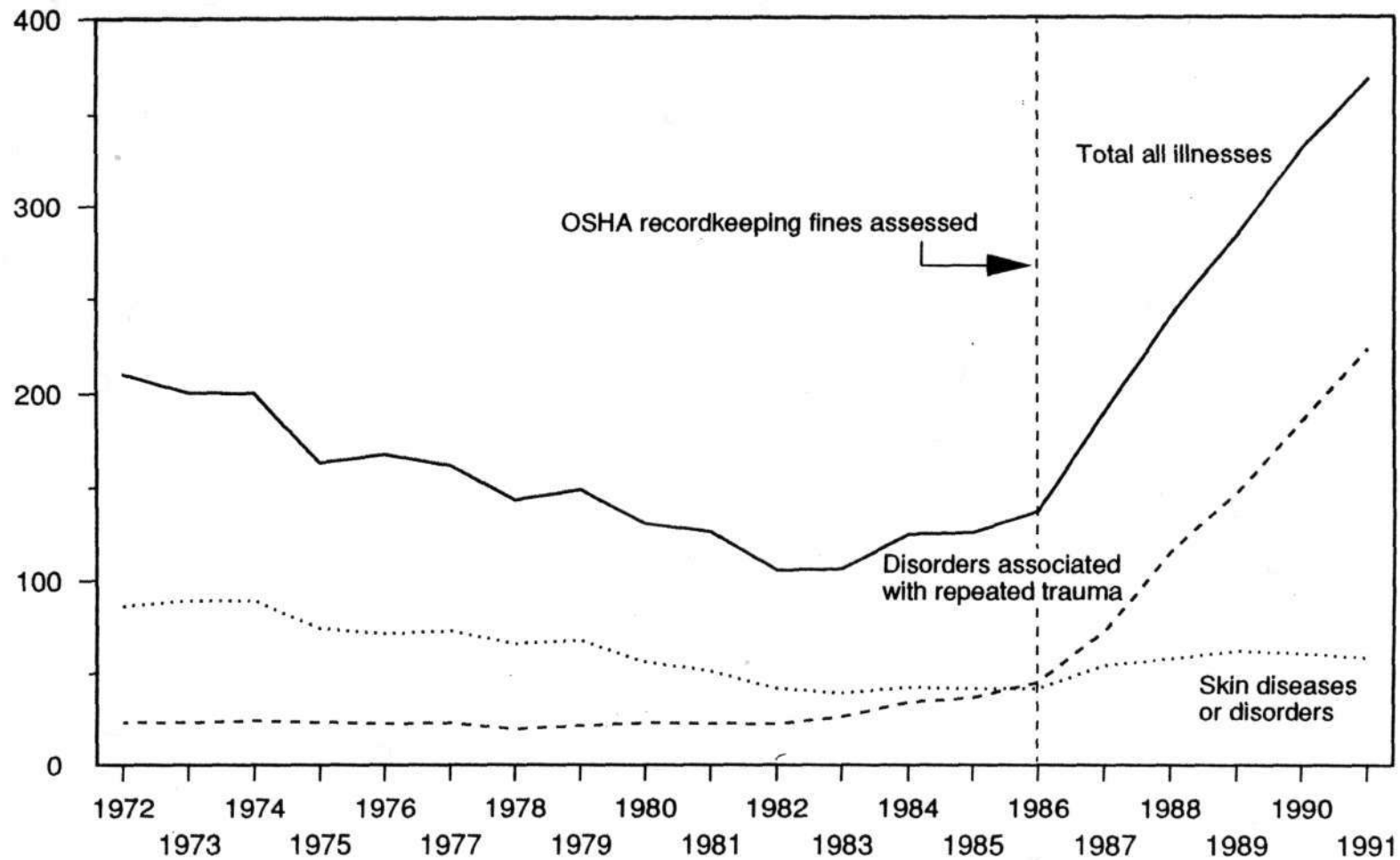
NOTE: Shaded areas are recessionary periods, as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses June 1993

% employment change  
———  
% total case change  
-----

## Number of Occupational Illnesses, Private Industry, 1972-91

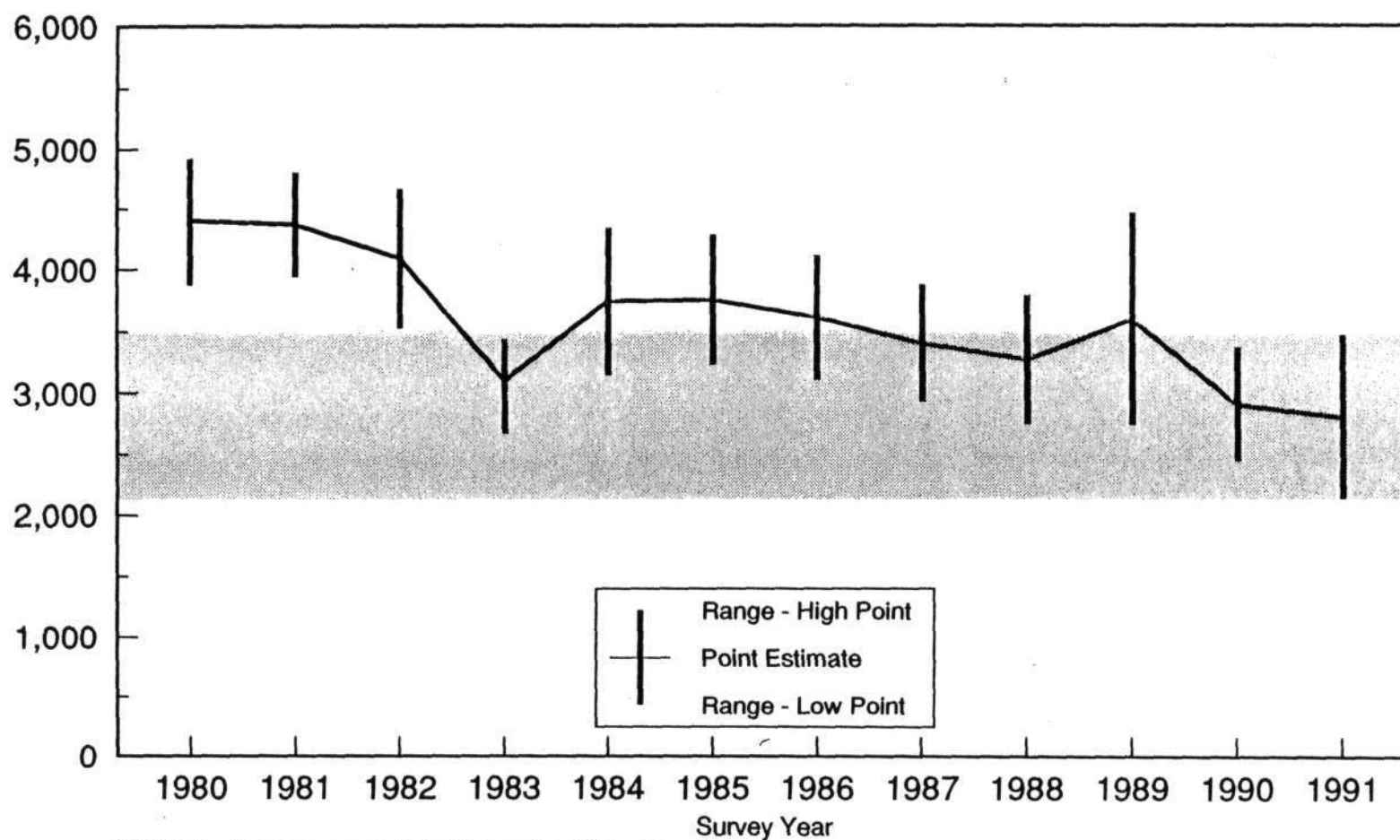
Number of cases  
(in thousands)



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses  
June 1993



# Number of Occupational Fatalities for Employers with 11 or More Employees, Private Industry, 1980-91



NOTE: The shaded area represents the 95-percent confidence interval for the 1991 estimate of fatalities.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses  
June 1993

## **EVENTS LEADING TO THE REDESIGN OF THE BLS OSHS**

DISSATISFACTION EXPRESSED BY A VARIETY OF DATA  
USERS (E.G., OSHA, UNIONS, MEDIA, AND CONGRESS)  
HEIGHTENED IN THE EARLY TO MID 1980'S.

IN 1986 BLS COMMISSIONED THE NATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF SCIENCES (NAS) TO REVIEW OSHS AND RECOMMEND  
IMPROVEMENTS.

# **NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 1987**

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

"THE BLS SYSTEMS...ARE INADEQUATE FOR PROVIDING OSHA WITH THE DATA IT NEEDS...FOR PREVENTION OF WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES."

"THERE IS NO SINGLE AGREED UPON ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES."

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

BLS SHOULD COLLECT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES FROM EXISTING EMPLOYER RECORDS.

BLS SHOULD WORK WITH STATE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP COMPLETE ROSTERS OF OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES FROM DEATH CERTIFICATES, MEDICAL EXAMINER RECORDS, AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

# **REDESIGNED OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STATISTICS PROGRAM**

**WHERE** are injuries, illnesses, and fatalities occurring?  
(INDUSTRY)

**WHO** are the injured and ill workers?  
(OCCUPATION, SEX, AGE, EXPERIENCE)

**WHAT** kind of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities are occurring?  
(NATURE - BURN, FRACTURE...)

**WHAT** parts of body are being impacted?  
(HEAD, ARM, LEG...)

**WHAT** machines or substances are involved?  
(SOURCE)

**HOW** did the injury, illness, or fatality occur?  
(EVENT - FALL, CRUSH, CONTACT...)

**REDESIGNED OCCUPATIONAL  
SAFETY AND HEALTH  
STATISTICS PROGRAM**

**1987**

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT**

**1988 - 91**

**FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND TESTING**

**1990 - 91**

**CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR REDESIGN**

**1992**

**IMPLEMENT NEW STATISTICAL PROGRAM**

**1993**

**PUBLISH NEW DATA**

# **CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES PROGRAM**

**1988 - 90**

**TESTS IN COLORADO AND TEXAS**

**1991**

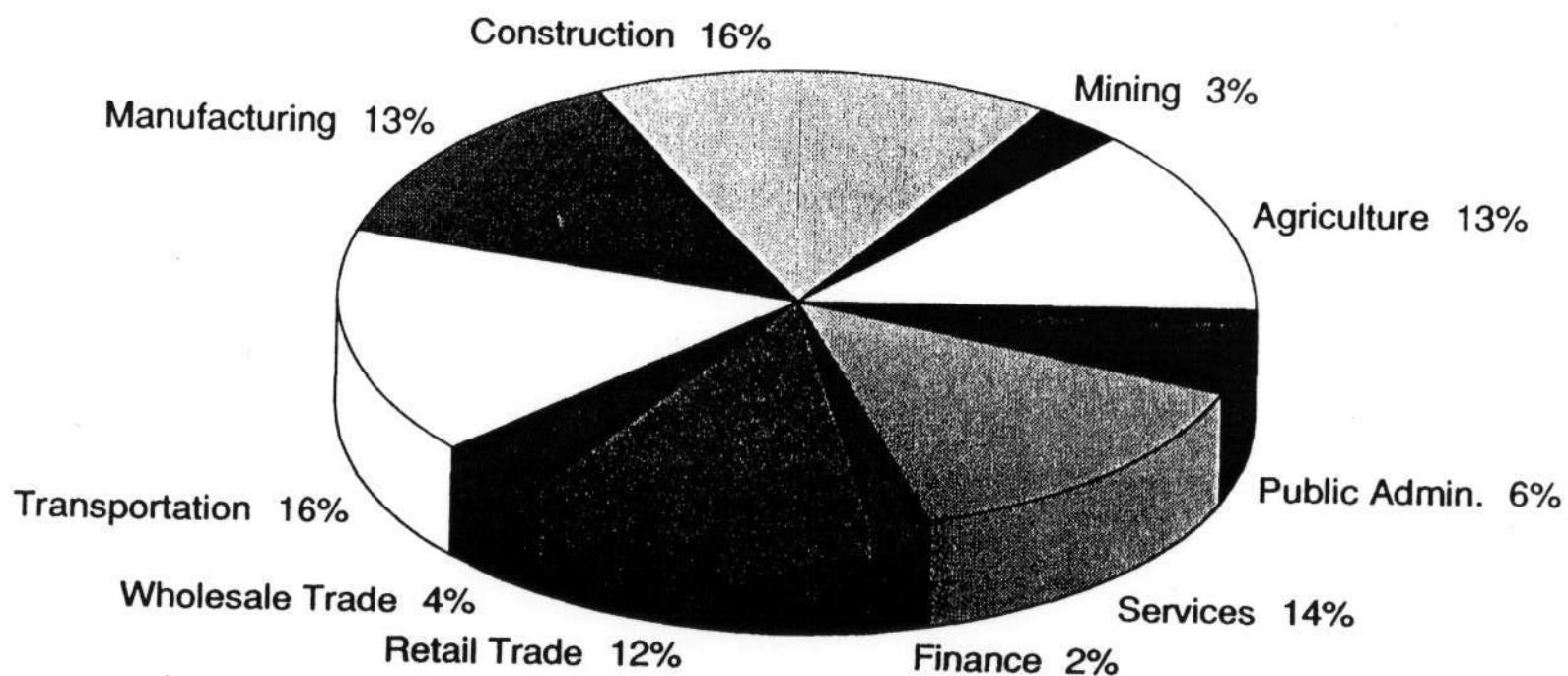
**DATA FOR 32 STATES AND NEW YORK CITY**

**1992**

**DATA FOR 50 STATES AND D.C.**

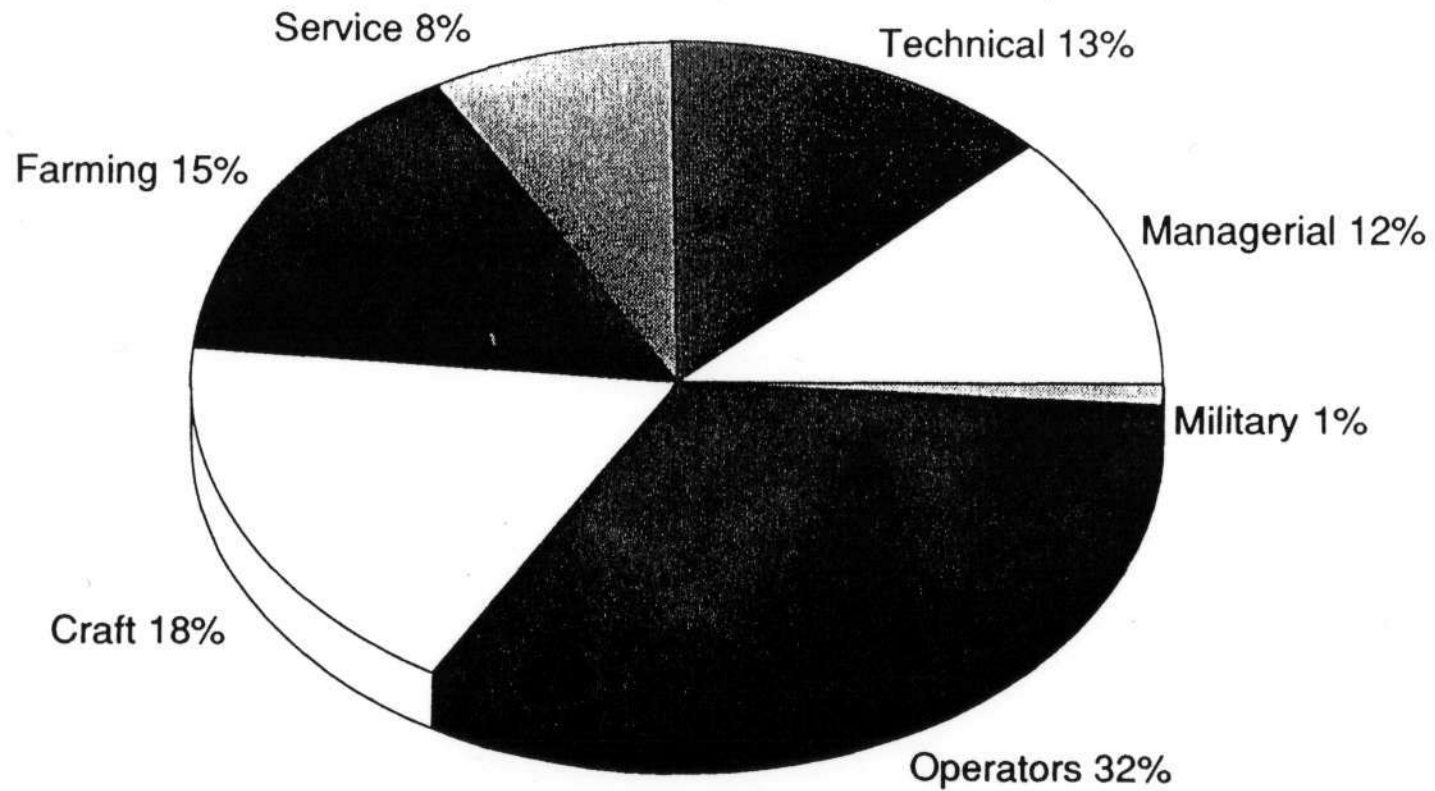
**(PUBLICATION FALL 1993)**

## Percent distribution of fatal occupational injuries by industry, 1991



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries,  
32 States and New York City, 1991 (Total Cases = 3,822)  
June 1993

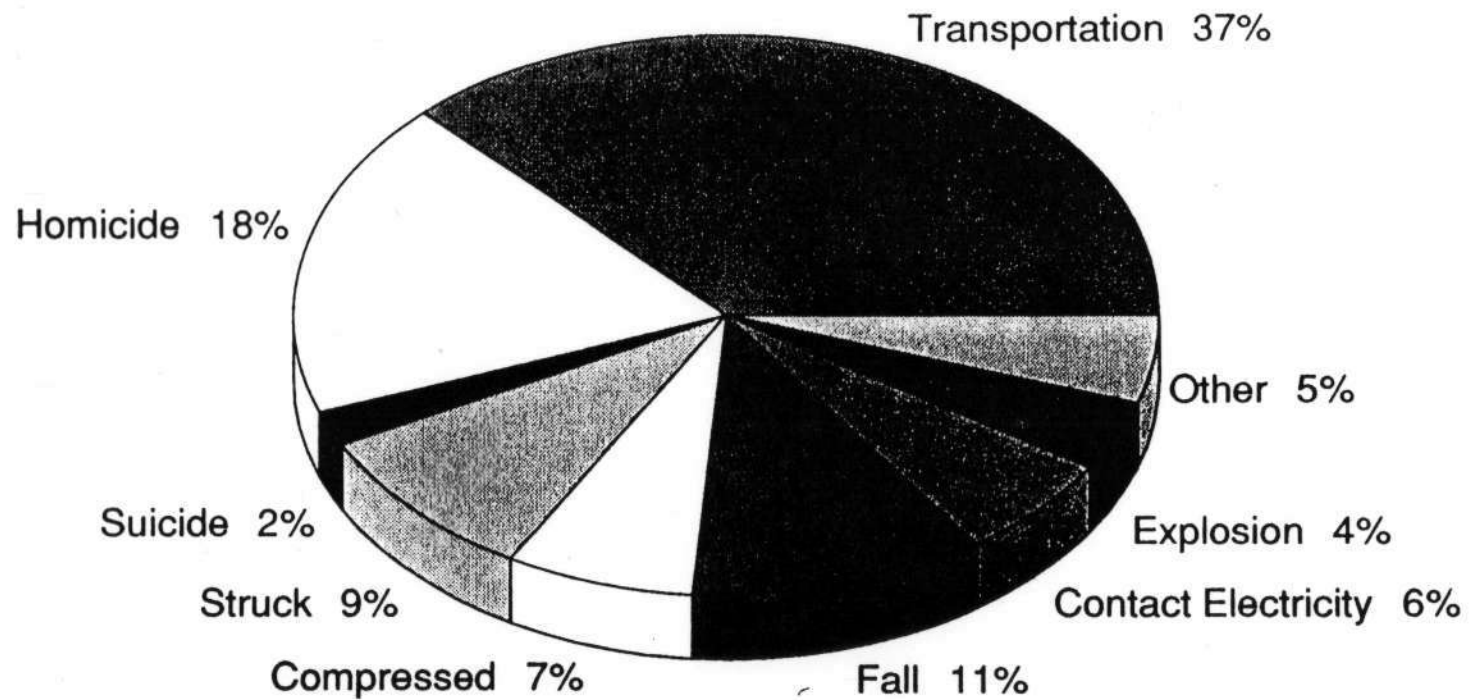
## Percent distribution of fatal occupational injuries by occupation, 1991



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries,  
32 States and New York City, 1991 (Total Cases = 3,822)  
June 1993



## Percent distribution of fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, 1991



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries,  
32 States and New York City, 1991 (Total Cases = 3,822)  
June 1993

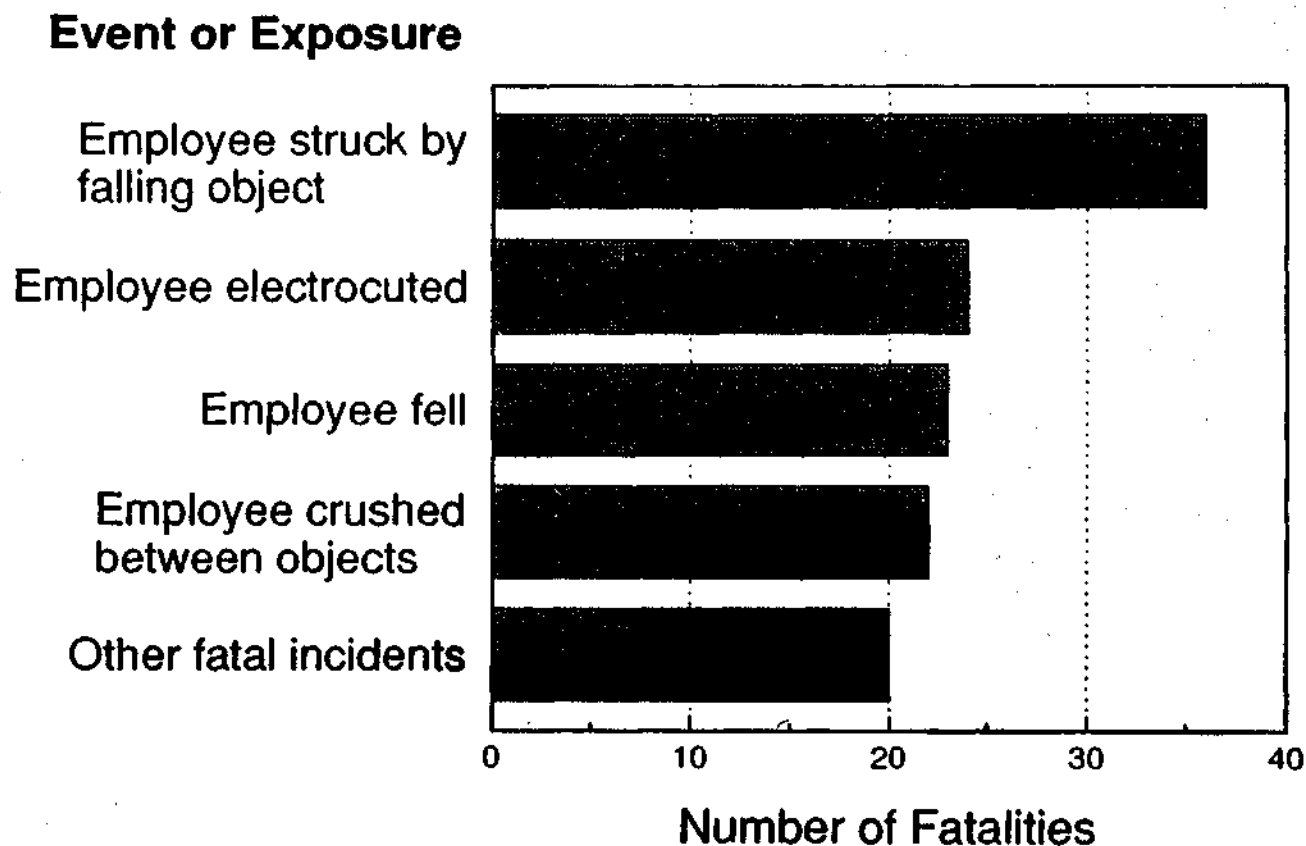
## Percent distribution of fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics, 1991

### Worker characteristics



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries,  
32 States and New York City, 1991 (Total Cases = 3,822)  
June 1993

## Number of fatal occupational injuries involving lifting machines (cranes, hoists, etc.), 1991



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries,  
32 States and New York City, 1991 (Total Cases = 3,822)  
June 1993

# FATALITY NARRATIVES

## EXAMPLES

CASE 21: EMPLOYEE WAS ELECTROCUTED WHEN THE CRANE WHICH HE WAS LEANING ON CAME IN CONTACT WITH A 14,400 VOLT ELECTRIC LINE.

CASE 33: WHILE DIRECTING A CRANE AT CONSTRUCTION SITE, EMPLOYEE FELL INTO AN AIR VENT SHAFT.

CASE 101: USING OVERHEAD CRANE AND SLING, EMPLOYEE WAS LOWERED INTO VAT TO RETRIEVE METAL PIECE AND FELL INTO VAT OF ACID.